



JOHN J. THOMAS
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"A STATE ACCREDITED POLICE AGENCY"

December 3, 2003

Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: WT 02-55 (Improving Public Safety Communications in the 800 MHz Band)

Madame Secretary,

On behalf of the Truro Police Department, I would like to express our support for the Consensus Plan as the solution for interference in the 800 MHz spectrum. Interference is a serious hazard. As a twenty-nine year veteran and a current police chief in the Cape area, I have first-hand experience that many times, radios are the lifeline for officers in the field, particularly in emergency and threatening situations.

The seriousness of the problem at hand cannot be diminished. Interference not only impedes the efficiency of first responders by losing time and hindering coordination, but also puts their lives – and the lives they have vowed to protect – in jeopardy.

The Consensus Plan is the only solution that addresses the severity of this situation. The plan would give public safety professionals a dedicated portion of radio spectrum, thereby virtually eliminating interference. All of the other proposals offer only a temporary fix to a situation that is in desperate need of a permanent solution.

Therefore, I urge you to do the right thing for public safety. Please implement the Consensus Plan now.

Sincerely,

John J. Thomas
Chief of Police

Copy to: Senator Kennedy

Senator Kerry
Congressman Delahunt
FCC Chairman Powell
FCC Commissioner Abernathy
FCC Commissioner Martin
FCC Commissioner Copps
FCC Commissioner Adelstein



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